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News Release

NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

A Smithsonian Affiliate

Bob Timberlake's Original Mock-Up Dresser to be Displayed in the North Carolina Museum of History, Donated to Permanent Collection

*Renowned artist, designer, outdoorsman, and North Carolina favorite, Bob Timberlake donates
revolutionary piece of furniture*



Image courtesy of Bob Timberlake Inc.

RALEIGH, N.C. - The North Carolina Museum of History will receive into its permanent collection American Furniture Hall of Fame inductee Bob Timberlake's original mock-up dresser.

Introduced in 1989, The World of Bob Timberlake® Collection of furniture has been recognized as the most successful furniture brand ever launched in the home furnishings industry. "The success," Timberlake says, "can be tied back to the design and creation of this exact dresser."

"The Bob Timberlake Collection continued North Carolina's long history of furniture craftsmanship and artistry and cemented a prominent place for Mr. Timberlake in the history of the North Carolina

furniture industry,” said Ken Howard, Director of the North Carolina Museum of History. “We are honored to add to the museum’s collection the first prototype for what would become the most successful line of furniture in industry history.”

Relevant History

When he was just 15 years old, Timberlake won the Industrial Arts Award – a national award sponsored by the Ford Motor Company – for a Pennsylvania Dutch dowry chest he built in high school shop class. He’d spent over 350 hours building and painting this first original piece of furniture.

“I lay awake at night thinking that this committee saw something in 1952 that would, 40 years later, become the most celebrated, successful line of furniture in the history of the world,” said Timberlake. “I wonder, while I was driving and working on cars, hunting, fishing, in the Scouts, doing everything a 15-year-old can do, who was upstairs planning the future of this little boy?”

Thirty-seven years later, Bob would foster the same patience and passion for perfection to create his original dresser, which is believed to have revolutionized the industry.

About the Dresser

This dresser is the first prototype piece of furniture assembled for The World of Bob Timberlake® furniture collection by Lexington Furniture Industries. This sample was crafted as a mock-up for design in 1989, using solid cherry wood in a warm, hand-antiqued, timeworn cherry finish. Created using a 12-step process, the finish was inspired by Lexington, NC, Master Craftsman and Bob’s mentor, Fred Craver. The dresser’s custom hardware uses a unique oxidized aging process on antique brass. This piece was produced by longtime Lexington employee and craftsman Robert Conrad.

Timberlake wanted to maintain the natural characteristics and knots within the wood, like the one seen on the middle drawer. This was virtually unheard of in the industry when the line was released in October 1990. Timberlake insisted that the character of the wood be left in his furniture. “Put the finish in the wood, not on the wood,” he stipulated. “This piece will get a patina and look more beautiful with age.” This philosophy, and other unique design concepts Timberlake introduced, was a major reason for the success of The World of Bob Timberlake® Collection.

About Bob Timberlake

Throughout his career, Timberlake has received numerous awards for his design work across multiple product categories. In 1995 the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina, held a Bob Timberlake 25th anniversary retrospective, “At Home in North Carolina with Bob Timberlake.” In 2010 Timberlake was inducted into the American Furniture Hall of Fame. The Timberlake family was recognized for 100 years in the furniture business in 2013. Bob’s grandfather, Edgar Timberlake, founded Piedmont Furniture Company in 1913. Bob recently celebrated his 80th birthday with a comprehensive art exhibit in the Bob Timberlake Gallery.

Bob Timberlake Inc., a licensing company based in Lexington, North Carolina, acts as manager and agent of the **Bob Timberlake** brand. The company’s founder, Bob Timberlake, is an internationally recognized artist and designer whose art career has been marked by resounding successes for over 47 years. His distinctive, casual approach to design has expanded to a broad array of categories that include home furnishings, decorative accessories, home plans, and apparel, all of which are on display at The Bob Timberlake Gallery in Lexington and many other locations. For additional information, please call 1-800-244-0095 or visit www.bobtimberlake.com.

For further information, contact Sherry Sink, Product Development Manager, Bob Timberlake Inc., via e-mail at ssink@bobtimberlake.com or phone at 336-243-7777, ext. 1225.

DROPBOX LINK: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3o1ezndl2v8lqeo/AADyzrcPpK3zFiEDK5mxN9j5a?dl=0>

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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